

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a text file in a computer application, comprising the steps:

forming a ~~template~~ plurality of templates having literal fragments of the text file;

providing a macro class to map data from the text file to the computer application;

embedding in one of the ~~template~~ templates a pointer to the macro class; and

using said one of the ~~template~~ templates as an overlay to parse the text file into segments having data, or as a prototype to generate a segment of an output file;

said using step including the steps of:

- i) reaching said pointer in said template one of the templates,
- ii) when said pointer is reached, using said pointer to invoke said macro class and using said macro class to map data from one of the segments of the text file to the computer application; and
- iii) said macro class then invoking ~~a next template~~ another one of the templates to further process the text file.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the macro class reads in a segment of the text file and uses the segment to initiate application update processing.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the macro class derives data from the application and formats it into the text file.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing an interface controller to prevent structure clashes by placing text data into appropriate places in a complex object structure as the text file is processed.

6. (Currently Amended) A system for processing a text file in a computer application, comprising:

means forming a ~~template~~ a plurality of templates having literal fragments of the text file;

means forming a macro class to map data from the text file to the computer application, wherein a pointer to the macro class is embedded in one of the ~~template~~ templates;

means for using said one of the ~~template~~ templates as an overlay to parse the text file into segments having data, or as a prototype to generate a segment of an output file;

said means for using including

i) means for using said pointer, when said pointer is reached in said ~~template~~ one of the templates, to invoke said macros class,

ii) means to use said macro class to map data from one of the segments of the text file to the computer application;

iii) means to use the macro class to invoke ~~a next template~~ another one of the templates to further process the text file.

7. (Original) A system according to Claim 6, wherein the macro class reads in a segment of the text file and uses the segment to initiate application update processing.

8. (Original) A system according to Claim 6, wherein the macro class derives data from the application and formats it into the text file.

9. (Original) A system according to Claim 6, further comprising an interface controller to prevent structure clashes by placing text data into appropriate places in a complex object structure as the text file is processed.

10. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for processing a text file in a computer application, said method steps comprising:

forming a ~~template~~ plurality of templates having literal fragments of the text file;

providing a macros class to map data from the text file to the computer application;

embedding in one of the template templates a pointer to the macro class; and

using said one of the template templates as an overlay to parse the text file into segments having data, or as a prototype to generate a segment of an output file;

said using step including the steps of:

- i) reaching said pointer in said ~~template~~ one of the templates,
- ii) when said pointer is reached, using said pointer to invoke said macro class and using said macro class to map data from one of the segments of the text file to the computer application;
- iii) said macro class then invoking ~~a next template~~ another one of the templates to further process the text file.

11. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 10, wherein the macro class reads in a segment of the text file and uses the segment to initiate application update processing.

12. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 10, wherein the macro class derives data from the application and formats it into the text file.

13. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 10, wherein said method steps further comprise the step of providing an interface controller to prevent structure clashes by

placing text data into appropriate places in a complex object structure as the text file is processed.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein:

the step of using said pointer to invoke said macro class includes the step of passing to said macro class a name for said another template when said macro class is invoked; and

the step of using said macro class includes the step of, said macro class using said name to invoke said another template to further process the text file.

15. (Currently Amended) A system according to Claim 6, wherein:

when the macro class is invoked, a name for said another template is passed to the macro class from said template; and

said macro class uses said name to invoke said another template to further process the text file;

16. (Currently Amended) A program storage device according to Claim 10, wherein

when the macro class is invoked, a name for said another template is passed to the macro class from said template; and

the step of using said macro class includes the steps of, said macro class using said means name to invoke said another template to further process the text file.

17. (New) A method according to Claim 5, wherein the step of providing the interface controller includes the steps of:

using the interface controller to set up said complex object structure and to place said text data into said object structure as the text file is processed; and

after the entire text file is processed, using said structure to process updating data into said application.